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(54) Title: **PLANTS HAVING MODIFIED GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS AND METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME**

(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns a method for modifying the growth characteristics of plants by modulating expression in a plant of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a metallothionein and/or modulating activity in a plant of a metallothionein. The invention also relates to transgenic plants having modified growth characteristics, which plants have modulated expression of a nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein.

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